

15 October, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR :

FROM : James A. Cunningham Jr.

SUBJECT : Classification Review of DCI's  
Testimony Before House Committee  
on Foreign Affairs, 1 June 1960

REFERENCE : Transcript of Subject Testimony  
as Annotated by OIS/CRD

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An interesting point from which to view the matter of partial declassification of the subject testimony comes right from the mouth of Allen W. Dulles on page 111 of the brief. When asked by a committee member if he, Mr. Dulles, didn't think that the discussion then being held about establishing a joint committee to oversee intelligence could be declassified, Mr. Dulles said: "I don't think anything should be declassified." He then added: "I make a rule not because of national security but if it gets out among the other services of the world that what I say before congressional committees becomes public, my whole position is hurt."

According to CRD, "it is the intent of the committee to publish this document in the House Historical Series of Hearings and Meetings." One must assume from that that this testimony will become available to the general public (and eventually foreign intelligence services), either through House library sources or the Library of Congress. I am not sure to what extent this historical series publishes other closed, Executive Session minutes or testimony, nor how much other testimony is excised from these minutes. I also have trouble with the idea of a series such as this becoming a self-serving vehicle designed to make the House membership look good to their constituents. In other words, I am not entirely sure what useful purpose is served by declassifying and publishing a hearing of this sort.

Having said that, I suspect that the best move is to make as certain as possible that as little is published that is damaging to sources, methods and operations. In that context, I find myself agreeing with the CRD suggested deletions with one or two exceptions:


(A) Since we are about to declassify those portions of the U-2 Program that deal with the basic aircraft then in use, I see no objection to the use of "70,000 feet" as a rough altitude figure for the plane. (These references are found on pages 20, 43, 65 and 102.

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*Done* (C) I located another reference to  on page 76, stated in the context that an overflight may have occurred on that date - an overflight referred to elsewhere as being very significant and productive by Mr. Dulles. Suggest deleting the date.

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I would have felt more comfortable with this transcript had there been less discussion about mission approvals mechanisms, but since the DCI was being forthright about his role in the U-2 operations, I don't see how it could have been done otherwise. The same thing is true of the remarks on the cover plan, though much of this information had already been leaked to the media before the Hearing date, a fact I know Mr. Dulles to have been witting of.

In summary then, though I question the ultimate wisdom of revelations of secret intelligence, the unique nature of the U-2 "disclosure event" and "Executive acknowledgment" probably suffice to obtain our reluctant concurrence to the transcript as amended.

  
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM JR.